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NEWS

SOCIAL AND REHABILITATION SERVICES

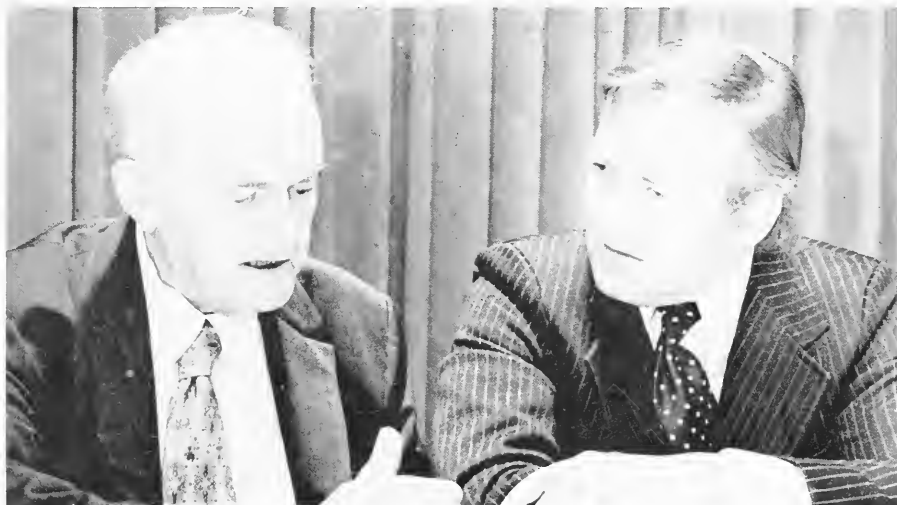
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Aging Conference Big Success



BARCLAY CRAIGHEAD, chairman of the Aging Services Bureau Advisory Council, now retired, engages in discussion with Gov. Thomas L. Judge during the Fifth Annual Governor's Conference on Aging held this fall in Billings.

The need to provide Montana's elderly with an adequate standard of living was emphasized by speakers at the Fifth Annual Governor's Conference on Aging held this fall in Billings.

As Governor Thomas L. Judge stated, "Increasingly, our society is denying older people the opportunity for productive lives. We encourage people to retire and then provide them with support that is barely above

the subsistence level."

The elderly were advised to mobilize to see that public funds are utilized for their betterment by Lt. Gov. Bill Christiansen and Bernard E. Nash, executive director of the American Association of Retired Persons and the National Retired Teachers Association.

"It is a matter of right, not of privilege," said Christiansen. "We must be totally certain the

funds hit the target."

Nash cited a survey done by a Washington, D.C., newspaper which said that less than one percent of revenue sharing money distributed to states, cities and towns has gone to help the poor and elderly. Most of the money went to capital improvements.

"Success or failure of revenue sharing will depend on organized
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A HAWAIIAN LEI of fresh flowers is placed around Lyle Downing's neck by Ed Okazaki, Denver, assistant Region VIII director, Office of Human Development, Department of Health, Education and Welfare. Okazaki's mother sent the wreath from Hawaii to honor Downing at his retirement dinner.

Downing Retires As Chief Of Aging Services Bureau

"Just like Tennyson's brook ..." began the lead of a newspaper story written years ago by Lyle Downing, chief for the past seven and a half years of the Montana Aging Services Bureau and editor of the SRS News.

And just like Tennyson's brook ran the spoken words and letters of Downing's friends who recently gathered to honor the journalist and expert on aging as he stepped down from his post with SRS to join, in his words, "The Over-the-Hill Gang". His retirement was effective November 1.

The consensus among his friends seemed to be that if Downing joins the "Over-the-Hill Gang" it will be as the leader.

Downing was chief of the

Aging Services Bureau since its inception in 1966. He was appointed to the job by former Governor Tim Babcock. During Downing's term with Aging Services, the agency has funded 67 senior citizen centers throughout the state and 19 training and demonstration programs designed to improve the social, educational and economic status of Montana's nearly 70,000 elderly residents.

Before taking the state job Downing spent five and a half years as Capitol reporter for the Helena Independent Record. During that period he also served as publicity director for the 1964 Montana Territorial Centennial Commission.

Last summer he was elected to the Board of Directors of the National Association of State

Units on Aging. In 1971 he was chairman of the Montana delegation to the White House Conference on Aging in Washington, D.C.

Downing spent more than 40 years in newspaper and public relations work. In 1969 he was assistant publicity director of the Oregon Territorial Exposition in Portland. In 1960 he served as campaign manager for Congressman Al Ullman, who was elected to a third term from the Eastern District of Oregon.



ONE OF THE SPEAKERS at Lyle Downing's retirement dinner was former Governor Tim Babcock, who in 1966 appointed Downing first chief of Aging Services.

In 1922 Downing, a Bozeman native, started his newspaper career as a reporter for the Yakima Morning Herald. In 1951 he returned to Montana with a federal civil service appointment as public information officer for the State Office of Price Stabilization. When that agency suspended operations in 1953 he returned to newspaper work on the West Coast. He

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Efforts Focus On Correcting Welfare Errors

In an effort to reduce the error rate in determining who is eligible for public assistance and to cut down the number of under and over payments, the Economic Assistance Division of SRS is going into the state's four largest counties to try to determine the most effective corrective action.

The intent of the short-range plan involving Cascade, Missoula, Silver Bow and Yellowstone Counties is to reduce error rates significantly by June 30, 1974, so federal monetary sanctions will not be imposed upon the state. The long-range goal is to bring not just these population centers but the entire state within tolerance levels prescribed by the federal government.

Staff will be working in the four largest counties during November and December. Each county will submit a list of cases where errors are suspected. The errors may be the result of a number of things, explains Jack Carlson, administrator, Economic Assistance. One common reason for overpayment is clients becoming employed and not reporting that they are working and the amount of their earnings. Cases must be checked regularly for such things as marriages, divorces, children who had been in school quitting and going to work—all of which affect the amount of public assistance payments persons receive.

Carlson notes that inadvertent errors can be made by clients in

reporting their status. Not all mistakes are the result of someone trying to dupe the welfare system. However, as the result of a law passed by the 1973 Legislature, the Department of Revenue now has authority to investigate and prosecute cases of suspected welfare fraud.

According to Carlson, "We recognize that our grants are low and if we can kick out those receiving grants who are ineligible, then we can raise the grants to those who really are in need."

The large counties will be studied first because of the concentration of population within these areas and because of the difficulties in managing caseloads where there are a lot of people. Carlson's staff says in small communities where everyone knows everyone else, people impose their own restrictions on one another.

About the middle of December, home visits to clients will be started.

Other long-range goals to reduce and maintain as low an error rate as possible include workshops to help staff members coordinate and effectively determine how best to conduct eligibility interviews and case reviews. Applications and forms for clients will be pared down and standardized to be more operative. Clerical help in the county welfare offices may also be able to assist by routinely checking recipients' records at the office of the clerk of court, the employment security agency and the industrial accident board.

Montana compiles and studies material regarding its welfare payments through a method known as quality control. By this

method sampling is done of the state's caseload and checks are run on the sample to determine the rate of error.

The Rocky Mountain Region of the U.S. Department of Labor registered a 92.4 per cent placement rate in its Job Corps program for the year ending June 30, 1973.

Downing Retires

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came back to Helena in 1961 to work for the Independent Record.

Although Downing, who will be 72 years old in February, is retiring from the Aging Services Bureau he does not intend to retire from work. He plans to work part time in public relations in Montana.



Lyle Downing

In speaking of his retirement Downing says, "During the next few years the Aging Program will be greatly expanded. At my age I don't believe that I should try to continue as bureau chief."

"I want to thank," he continues, "the hundreds of senior citizens in the state who have cooperated with me on various Aging Service programs. The early success of the agency is due largely to the support I received from the original Montana Commission on Aging, of which Barclay Craighead of Helena was chairman."

Developmental Disability Bureau Opens

The Developmental Disability Bureau, established this year by order of the Governor, has begun operation in the Rehabilitative Services Division, SRS.

Mike Brown, formerly developmental disabilities authority for the state of Wyoming, is chief of the new bureau.

The developmentally disabled are persons suffering from a physiological disorder of the nervous system such as mental retardation, cerebral palsy or epilepsy.

Primary purpose of the bureau is to administer federal money granted Montana by the 1970 Developmental Disabilities Act. This job originally was attached to the Department of Institutions and administered out of Boulder. This summer the transfer of the program to SRS was finalized.

The Developmental Disabilities Act, as Brown explains, granted \$100,000, based on population, to Montana to broaden already established programs such as day care, sheltered workshops and recreational programs.

Brown is optimistic about the bureau and is looking forward to growth of its programs and expansion of quality services to the state. "I think," he says with pleasure, "that Montanans are definitely interested in serving the developmentally disabled."

Brown, who is 33 years old, has a commendable record of accomplishments from his three and a half years in Cheyenne, Wyo. During his first three



MIKE BROWN, chief of the new Disability Determination Bureau.

months there he worked with model cities to establish a work-activities center.

In 1967 Brown, a native of Sterling, Colo., was graduated from the University of Northern Colorado with a B.A. in special education. He currently is doing graduate work for a master's. Upon graduation from UNC he became director of Weld County

Community Center for Handicapped Children. From there he went to Cheyenne.

Since the bureau's recent transfer, what Brown feels is a major step in improving services for the developmentally disabled has been taken. Brown and his staff have rewritten the tentative licensing rules and regulations for community group homes.

Supplemental Security Payments Will Begin in January

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments will begin January 1, 1974, for aged, blind and other disabled persons in financial need.

Persons already getting state old age assistance or state aid because they are blind or disabled need not apply for the new program. They will automatically receive SSI payments

in amounts equivalent to what they currently receive.

Other persons who think they may be eligible for payments under the new program may apply at their local Social Security Office. Although the Social Security Administration will make the SSI payments, the program is not the same as Social

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SSI Payments Soon To Start

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Security, SSI will be financed by federal general revenues, not by Social Security contributions from workers and employers. State and local public assistance offices will continue to make payments through the end of December.

The SSI Program will provide supplemental payments in cases of need so that persons 65 years of age and older, blind or disabled, will have a basic cash income of at least \$130 a month for one person and \$195 a month for a couple.

This is not to say that every eligible person will get a monthly check for \$130 and every couple a check for \$195. The amount of the check will depend upon the amount of the recipients' income.

Eligibility for the payments will depend not only on the amount of income people have, but also on the value of their assets.

In summary the assets factors are as follows:

If you're single—or married but not living with your husband or wife—you can own things up to \$1,500 and still get federal payments. A couple can own things worth up to \$2,250 and get payments.

Not everything you own has to be counted toward your total assets. A home of reasonable value will not be counted as an asset, and the federal government will not put liens on the homes of people getting federal payments. Personal effects and household goods won't count in most cases. Insurance policies or

a car may not affect eligibility either, depending on their value.

The income factors are summarized as follows:

Certain income also will be disregarded in deciding on an application for Supplemental Security Income. The first \$20 a month of income generally won't affect the federal payment at all.

In addition, people who are working part time should know that the first \$65 a month of earnings won't be included in counting their income and only half of the rest of their additional earnings will be counted.

Apart from earnings, other income above the first \$20 a month generally will reduce the federal payment. This includes Social Security checks, veterans payments, workmen's compensation, pensions, annuities and gifts. And if you live in someone else's household, your basic federal payment will be reduced by one-third before other income that may affect your payment is deducted.

Telephone Your Citizens Advocate For Answers On State Government

Why didn't my workmen's compensation check come? How do I license a water well? Can't something be done about those sonic booms? How does a bill go through the legislature? What can Montanans do about the energy crisis? Who do I see about applying for Medicaid?

The gamut of questions, complaints and requests for information is heard by the Citizens' Advocate Office in Helena. Kent Kleinkopf, the citizens' advocate, and his assistant Kathy McGowan answer an average of 20-30 calls a day from people throughout the state in need of all sorts of information.

Any person in Montana may call Kleinkopf's office for information about the operations of the various agencies of state

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Library Has Special Service For Handicapped Montanans

Anyone with a physical or visual handicap which prevents him from being able to read ordinary printed books and magazines is invited to take part in a special service offered by the Montana State Library in Helena.

A variety of material—recorded, large print and Braille—is available at no cost to those who qualify. Those eligible may be any age, from juvenile to senior citizen, who cannot see regular print, hold a book or turn pages because of a visual or physical

impairment. The disability may be either permanent or temporary such as a condition resulting from a cataract operation or an automobile accident.

Not eligible for the services are those persons with mental or emotional problems only. If such difficulties are coupled with physical or visual handicaps a person is eligible, according to Richard C. Peel, coordinator, special library services.

Application forms are available at most public libraries,

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4 C's Honors Governor

A plaque expressing gratitude to Governor Thomas L. Judge for his commitment to day care in Montana has been given to the state's top executive by Montana Community Coordinated Child Care (4 C's).

The award was presented this fall at a meeting of the state 4 C's Council in Helena. Andree Delegdisch, Council chairperson at that time, made the presentation.

In response, the Governor stated, "You have a commitment from me that this administration will continue to support this program for young people, children and working mothers."

As the meeting convened, Governor Judge gave checks to five Indian day care centers for

maintenance of their programs. The centers receiving checks totaling \$2,000 were Rocky Boy, Browning, St. Ignatius, Lame Deer and Crow. In turn, the centers presented the Governor a hand-beaded string tie.

The money given these centers is part of \$100,000 requested this year by the Governor for "expansion of quality day care in Montana". The \$100,000 is administered by the state 4 C's.

Present at the presentation of awards, in addition to 4 C's Council members and guests, were Jim Pippard, director, Montana 4 C's; Theodore Carkulis, director, Montana Social and Rehabilitation Services, and Percy DeWolfe, state senator from Browning.



ANDREE DELEGDISCH, immediate past president of the State 4 C's Council, presents Gov. Thomas Judge a plaque for his commitment to day care. Looking on is Theodore Carkulis, director, SRS.

Child Welfare Bureau Chief Has Retired

With a touch of sadness in leaving but embracing 39 years of joy and satisfaction in knowing, understanding and helping human beings, Joseph H. Roe has retired as chief of the Child Welfare Bureau, SRS.



Joseph Roe

He continues to lend his expertise as an independent consultant to SRS and other agencies. He is looking forward to continuing what he describes as a "very, very fascinating life".

As a high school boy, Roe became indelibly concerned with the problems of people when he visited a commodity room back in the early 1930's. He was struck, he says, not only with a tragic view of poverty but of other problems faced by families and children as well.

His compassion and interest grew and in 1937 he received his B.A. in sociology and economics from the University of Montana. In 1950 he was awarded an

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Roe Retires

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M.A. in social services administration from the University of Chicago.

While in undergraduate school Roe worked as a junior caseworker for the Montana Relief Commission, which later became the Department of Public Welfare. Upon graduation he returned as a senior caseworker and received several promotions until World War II, by which time he was the state field supervisor in Billings.

Roe considers invaluable his experiences during the war as a psychiatric social worker for the US Army in the states and in Europe as principal welfare officer and later as liaison officer of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration.

In Europe he served in the US Zone of Germany where he was involved with displaced persons and with men and women fresh out of the bloody walls of Dachau and other concentration camps.

After the war he returned to his position with the welfare department. He remained there until 1951 when he became assistant director to the department's Division of Public Assistance. In 1953 he became state director of Child Welfare Services and in 1969 state director of social services, Department of Public Welfare. Under reorganization he was made chief of the Child Welfare Bureau, Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services.

"I look forward to the future with great anticipation," says Roe, "and I hope in one way or another I can continue to be a

part of people and their problems."

Roe's interest in people has brought him a long list of honors including membership on the national advisory board of child welfare executives to the Child Welfare League of America. He has served as executive secretary for the Governor's Child Welfare Advisory Committee and for the Governor's Committee on the White House Conference on Children and Youth. He also is a member of the Academy of Certified Social Workers and is on the national roster of interviewers for the National Council of Schools of Social Work.

Citizens Advocate

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government. Complaints also may be registered with the citizens' advocate.

Persons may call toll free. The number is 800-332-2272. The office is in Room 237 of the State Capitol Building, and Kleinkopf and Ms. McGowan welcome personal visits. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Legal questions are one thing the citizens' advocate cannot handle. But on other matters, if the office does not have an answer immediately on hand, Kleinkopf and his assistant will research the problem and return their findings to the caller. Sometimes an authority from another agency will be called upon to explain a complicated matter directly to the caller.

A large percentage of the calls, says Ms McGowan, ask where do I go? or who do I see?

The office of the citizens' advocate opened in July. As Ms. McGowan explains, there was a

bill before the last legislature requesting a legislative ombudsman. The governor asked instead that the citizens' advocate be set up through his office, so the ombudsman bill was held over until the coming session.

Kleinkopf and McGowan feel the office has been successful during its short time of operation. They encourage interested citizens and persons in need of assistance to continue to call and to find out about the workings of state government.

Library Service

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visual services offices, county welfare departments and from the State Library. Professional persons such as social workers, nurses, doctors, teachers may certify applications.

The State Library will supply all "reading" material, equipment on which to play the material and all postage for those enrolled in the reading services program. Repairs on equipment are provided for by the Telephone Pioneers.

Probably the best known visual aid, according to Peel, is the "Talking Book" Program. "Anything, fiction and non-fiction, you can find in a good medium-sized public library is recorded on records," he says. Material for all age groups and levels of reading and interest is available on these records.

The newest area of service is the "cassette book". This encompasses the same type of material as the "talking book" on cassette tapes. The supply of material at this time is limited, however, because the program is new.

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Governor's Conference

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groups (influencing government on how to spend the money)," Nash said.

Gov. Judge told the crowd of about 400 attending the two-day conference that the State Department of Revenue is studying ways to provide Montana's elderly with property tax relief. He said recommendations from the study, if implemented, will eliminate inequities in the present system of taxing senior citizens who own homes and live on fixed incomes.

According to Judge, Montana has become a leader in advocating meaningful assistance to the elderly since 1966 when the Montana Commission on Aging (now the Aging Services Bureau) was created.



CASCADE COUNTY COMMISSIONER John St. Germain was panel moderator during the Governor's Fifth Annual Conference on Aging.

The governor pointed out that the Aging Bureau has 67 senior citizen centers with an operating budget of \$200,000. It administers 28 service programs at a cost of almost \$500,000.

Judge mentioned the possibility of the state establishing an authority to work with other levels of government to develop and finance housing projects for the elderly. He talked of plans to appoint a new advisory commission on nutrition under provisions of the federal Older Americans Act. The commission will provide assistance to senior citizens in maintaining nutritional levels needed for good health, said the governor.

Judge also said the state has awarded planning grants to eight

Governor's Conference Luncheon



Regis



e Was Well Attended

counties to study problems related to aging and to devise solutions to the problems. The counties provided matching funds for the studies.

To help senior citizens, the governor encourages county commissions across the state to engage in similar planning activities to assure maximum use of available funds.

These three speakers and others, including Robert B. Robinson, director of the Colorado Commission on Aging, and Rulon Garfield, regional director, Department of Health, Education and Welfare, emphasized the importance of senior citizens being encouraged to stay in the mainstream of life.

In the words of Gov. Judge:



STATE LEGISLATOR
Max Baucus, from Missoula, was a member of the panel speaking to Montana senior citizens.

"As a nation, we have developed an obsession with youth. We are urged to join the Pepsi generation and think young and subsequently we have ignored the great contributions and possibilities of older Americans.

"Youth is no assurance of vitality and imagination," he continued and then quoted Oliver Wendell Holmes. 'Youth is not a time of life but a state of mind. And to be 70 years young is sometimes far more cheerful than to be 40 years old.'

CARROLL ESTES and Bernard E. Nash compare notes during the Fifth Annual Governor's Conference on Aging. Ms. Estes, Ph. D., University of California, San Francisco, is part of a team completing a study on the aged in Montana. Nash is executive director of the American Association of Retired Persons and the National Retired Teachers Association.

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Ed Malensek Heads Community Services

New administrator of the Community Services Division, Montana Social and Rehabilitation Services is Edward J. Malensek.

Formerly administrator, SRS Special Services Division, Malensek has been with SRS and, before reorganization, the public welfare department since 1950.

In 1950 the Butte native received his bachelor's degree from Gonzaga University. He earned a master's in social work in 1960 from Florida State University.

Upon leaving undergraduate school Malensek became Beaverhead County director, Department of Public Welfare. He held that position until 1958.

After completing his master's he became Big Horn County director from 1961-62. For the next year he was child welfare field supervisor for the Miles City district.

Between 1963 and 1966 he served as assistant director, Child Welfare Services.

Malensek became director, Division of Staff Development, in 1966, holding that position until 1972 when the welfare department was reorganized and SRS was created. At that time he became special services administrator in charge of the division which handles staff development and training.

The new Community Services administrator is a Navy veteran of World War II. He served in the South Pacific. He is a member of the Academy of Certified Social Workers, Na-

tional Association of Social Workers and in 1967 was selected to appear in Who's Who in the West.

SRS Deputy Director Frank Sennett was acting head of community services prior to Malensek's appointment.

Library Services

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Reel to reel tapes of heavy fiction and nonfiction, including textbook material, is available for handicapped persons at the college and professional levels. A tape player for the reels is not supplied by the State Library, however equipment may be obtained through the Visual Services Division of SRS.

A complete range of fiction and nonfiction printed in Braille may be obtained from the library. Also on hand is a general collection of material in large print for persons with limited vision. This group is not as large, notes Peel, as the recorded group. About 300 titles a year are added to the printed collection. About 1,200 titles are added each year to the recorded collection, and the library has access to several hundred more. Fifty-one libraries, all tied together through the Library of Congress, exchange recorded books.

About 50 different magazines also are available in each of these sections at the Montana State Library, and the library has access to many more and also to a variety of religious reading.

The library is in the process of compiling a Montana classification and is hoping to get a recording studio. Currently the Montana material is being recorded by individuals in their

homes.

About 3,600 handicapped Montanans are being served by the library's special program. Peel estimates that this is only about one fifth of the number eligible and he hopes more people will take advantage of this service. Last year, Peel says, about 70,000 "books" were sent out by the library.

Every year a list of available material, including a short review on each new book, is printed, recorded and written in Braille.

Peel mentions that the library is happy to set up demonstrations temporarily or permanently in such places as senior citizen centers, libraries, hospitals, nursing and retirement homes, public welfare offices.

Agencies or individuals wishing application forms may write to the Montana State Library at 930 East Lyndale Avenue, Helena, Mt. 59601.

4 C's Elects

A new slate of officers has been chosen by the State Community Coordinated Child Care (4 C's) Council.

Council chairperson is Joyce Steffek, who represents Helena Model Cities. Scott Lockwood, representative of the State Planning Department, is vice chairperson. Secretary-treasurer is Marie Williamson, who represents Montana's Indians.

Governor Thomas L. Judge presided over the recent meeting at which the 4 C's Council members gathered.

The state 4 C's Council is in effect to improve day care and the welfare in general of Montana's children.

Bob Donaldson Given MAR Service Award

Other Outstanding Montanans Honored

The President's Award, the highest compliment paid by the Montana Association for Rehabilitation, was shared this fall by Sandra Schneider, Belgrade, and Phyllis Bagley, Missoula.

Walter R. "Bob" Donaldson, Helena, assistant administrator, Rehabilitative Services Division, SRS, was presented the Meritorious Award for his service to MAR.

The trio was honored by MAR during its annual conference, held in October at Big Sky. The theme was "Developmental Disabilities".

Other recognition was paid to Dr. John Self, Billings, president of MAR, who received the Achievement Award, and to the Montana Handicapped Children's Center in Billings, which won the Organizational Award.

Ms. Schneider, a 25-year-old double amputee who has artificial limbs replacing both legs, was singled out for her courage and zest for life which she generously lends to others—handicapped and non-handicapped alike. The young woman has devoted a great deal of her time to visiting recent amputees to share her knowledge and experiences and to give them encouragement.

Ms. Bagley, a physical therapist at the Montana Rehabilitation Center in Missoula, was acknowledged for dedicated, proficient and sensitive care of her patients.

Donaldson has been assistant

state administrator for SRS's Rehabilitative Services since 1968. He has worked in the field of rehabilitation and counseling since 1949 when he was a counselor for the Montana State Employment Service.

When MAR, a branch of the national association, was formed in 1958, Donaldson became the first membership chairman. He held that position until 1971. He has kept the organizations historical records since its beginning. He served one term as an executive board member and four terms as chairman of the program committee.



Bob Donaldson

In 1967 Donaldson served as president of Region VIII of the National Rehabilitation Association. MAR's parent organization, and was the region's representative on the steering

committee of the Advisory Council of Chapter Presidents. He is a charter member of the National Rehabilitation Counselors' Association and in 1966 was president Region VIII, NCRA.

Donaldson was chairman of the Montana Association for Rehabilitation Committee which successfully worked for enactment of the Architectural Barriers Bill which makes buildings within the state accessible to the handicapped.

Senior Citizens Form Statewide Organization

The Montana Senior Citizens' Association, Inc., was born during this year's annual Governor's Conference on Aging.

The organization has a potential membership of about 90,000 Montana senior citizens and their families. Its purpose, according to President Claude Williams, Missoula, is to bring the influence of Montana's senior citizens to bear upon legislative, social and economic problems through a comprehensive program of information, organization and education.

The organizational meeting of the group was held recently in Helena. Officers present were Williams; Charlie Banderob, vice president, Billings; George Erickson, treasurer, Great Falls, and Holly Luck, secretary, Helena. Guests included Max Baucus, attorney, Missoula; John St. Germain, Cascade County commissioner, Great Falls; Rich King, Retired Senior Volunteer Program director for Montana, Helena, and Jack

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THE MONTANA ADVISORY COUNCIL ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH (MACCY) was represented at the regional meeting in San Francisco by Don Petterson, Billings, and Mary Ann Fisher, pictured. Accompanying them were Judi Birdwell and Rod Newman, both of Miles City. MACCY is concerned with getting Montana's children and youth involved with what goes on in the state and with making Montana the best possible place for its young people to live. One of MACCY's current causes is maintaining a quality environment.

Veterans Van Touring State

A red, white and blue Veterans Administration office on wheels has begun touring the state in an attempt to reach veterans living in localities far from permanent VA offices.

"Concern for rural and urban area veterans who may not be making full use of the veterans' benefits is the basic idea behind the VA van that will be visiting veterans in their home communities," says Charles C. Walter, director of the VA center at Fort Harrison.

The 27-foot van usually spends one day in the community it is visiting and sets up in a

public square, shopping center or other spot where people tend to gather. Its personnel help veterans with G.I. Bill education assistance, home loans, medical benefits, job training, apprenticeships and other needs. The staff maintains communication with the Fort Harrison VA office and has access to VA records.

The list of "things to do" for fall and winter brides should include changing their name on social security records. A new bride can change her name by calling, writing or visiting any social security office. Or, she can get a form at any post office and at many personnel offices.

Personal Care Payments Transferred To Medicaid

After January 1, 1974, payments will be made by Medicaid for personal care services performed in nursing and group care homes, announces Jack Carlson, administrator, Economic Assistance Division, Montana Social and Rehabilitation Services.

Until this date, payments will continue to be made to participating facilities through direct money payments to recipients by the welfare department.

Personal care facilities must be under contract with SRS and licensed by the Department of Health and Environmental Sciences in order to be reimbursed by Medicaid for giving personal care services. A licensed facility may bill Medicaid at the end of each month for aid given personal care clients.

Facilities anticipating becoming providers of personal care and not presently licensed are reminded by SRS to arrange with the Board of Health for licensing before the first of the year. Carlson and his staff encourage such arrangements to be made as soon as possible to expedite payments.

Personal care refers to the services provided individuals who are essentially able to care for themselves but need, for instance, help getting in and out of the bathtub or reminders to take medication.

Seniors Organize

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Clifford, publisher, Horizons Unlimited magazine.

At its meeting the group went on record as condemning the proposed action by the Montana Hospital Association to discontinue the Medicare program in Montana hospitals if certain standards for care are not in compliance with criteria established by M.H.A. The hospital association has made clear that the intention of the resolution is in no way to deny hospital care. It currently is conducting meetings throughout the state to make sure hospitals fully understand the Medicare standards.

Next on the agenda of the association for senior citizens will be adoption of a constitution and by-laws.

The organization will keep Montana senior citizens informed of legislative and public issues through the senior centers.

New Faces

Fill Spots In State Offices

Community Services Division of SRS and the Aging Services Bureau have several new faces in their state offices.

Ron Mullis is the new child care specialist for State 4 C's and Ray Linder has been named planning and research analyst for the Youth Development Bureau. New director of the Children and Youth Unit is Clark Welch. In the Bureau of Aging, Becky Clark has become director of the Foster Grandparents Program and Randy Bowsheer has taken over the position of program planner for aging.

Mullis, who is 30 years old,

was director of Head Start in Missoula prior to joining 4 C's.

A native of Los Banos, Calif., he earned his bachelor's degree in sociology and psychology at Sacramento State University in 1966.

As 4 C's child care specialist, Mullis consults and trains operators of Day Care centers in Montana funded through 4 C's.

Forty-four-year-old Welch is heading the Children and Youth Unit of Community Services.

A graduate of Montana State University, where he studied behavioral sciences, Welch has done graduate work there and at Purdue University.

He has been involved with young people for a number of years. Before coming to Helena he was a resource worker in the Miles City district office. For six years he was a child welfare worker with the Fergus County Welfare Department. In 1970 Welch was a delegate to the White House Conference on Children and Youth.

Linder, who has joined the Youth Development staff, has been a sociology teacher at Carroll College since 1969. He has instructed classes in such fields as family, race and ethnic relations; social psychology, and crime and delinquency.

While working on his master's degree in sociology from St. Louis University, he was co-director of a research project for the St. Louis Metropolitan Youth Commission.

Raised in Widener, Ark., the 29-year-old Linder also has an undergraduate degree in sociology from St. Louis University.

Ms. Clark, whose home is Billings, is 23 years old and has worked since 1971 as a social

worker and then project director for the Comprehealth Program, Economic Assistance Division, SRS.

As director of the Foster Grandparents Program she is setting up plans around the state to provide physically, mentally and emotionally handicapped children with the love and attention of an elderly person.

Ms. Clark has a degree in social work from Montana State University.

Bowsheer, who is Aging Services' new program planner, has a degree from the University of Montana in Business Administration and Marketing.

Since 1971 he worked as an administrative aide, Division of Aeronautics, Department of Intergovernmental Relations, where he dealt in public relations.

For Aging Services, the 31-year-old Butte native supervises statewide planning for older Americans.

Child Protection Expenses High

Federal-state expenditures for the protection of children in the United States from abuse and neglect reached a record high of \$122 million in fiscal year 1973, according to James S. Dwight Jr., administrator of SRS for the US Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

The federal-state total was \$113 million in FY 1972. The projected total cost for FY 1974 is \$138 million.

In making the announcement, Dwight said that about 1.3 million US children were given government-supported protective services last year.

Double Amputee Be

Exuding a contagious zeal for the business of living, Sandy Schneider does not let the fact that both her legs are artificial dampen her enthusiasm for her greatest enjoyment—people.

Her passion for knowing, helping and just simply talking to people can't help but be reciprocated because Sandy possesses a friendly, reassuring manner and a frankness that make people glad to know her.

One wonders at first whether this delightful young woman developed such a personality to compensate for the loss of her legs when she was just 20 years old, but one soon discovers that

interstate near Bozeman pouring gasoline into a stalled car. It was a snowy December evening—visibility was poor—and a car driving on the shoulder hit the three friends from behind crushing Sandy between the two cars.

For months she lay in a hospital bed and then pushed herself through months of physical therapy. She says she gradually evolved from despair to confidence and optimism. Now she's a regular Fourth of July parade, on the go with so many things she likes to do that she wears out her artificial limbs almost as soon as she puts them on.

Because she is eager to go on with life and has much she looks forward to, she believes she can encourage others and show them that losing part of one's body is no reason to stop being a whole person.

Having gone through what others suffer with the loss of one or more limbs, Sandy is able to empathize and guide them through the various stages of physical and mental pain which she remembers vividly.

As Sandy puts it, "The goal is to be as close to normal as possible. You have to be the type of person in whom people can overlook your handicap. If you feel you're handicapped, others will too. If you forget about yourself, you'll have it made in the shade."

Sandy can't stress enough the importance of people and family you love. "They can do so much," she says, "to build up your self-confidence and encourage you and push you." It's tough for them too, though she adds, "They can't be filled with pity and yet they can't overdo in the opposite direction either." It appears that Sandy's family sensed exactly what to do.

She stresses also the importance of being able to talk to an optimistic handicapped person who is enthusiastic about life. Being able to actually see that it is possible to carry on happily and satisfactorily is tremendous encouragement, Sandy says.

After being hurt, Sandy recalls going through a period of feeling that she couldn't do anything. Her family owns a dairy farm on



SANDY SCHNEITER holds the MAR President's Award. At the podium is Dr. John Self, president of MAR.

such a character and personality were there long before and must have been part of the gift of courage that keeps her going great guns.

Twenty-five-year-old Sandy, whose home is Belgrade, lost her legs in 1968 as she and a couple of friends stood on the side of the

She has a definite direction, however, and she stops all along the way to make new friends and to offer encouragement to others.

Sandy feels that, particularly because she is a double amputee who finds a lot of worth in her life, she has a special value in working with the handicapped.

Believes in Living Life



Sandy Sorting Potatoes.

which she'd always been active—and, perhaps more to her own surprise than anyone else's, still is. So she went to college and this spring earned a degree in home economics. The vivacious young woman's philosophy is this: "Do it! Just don't think about it because you might give up." This, she adds, is how she went to college. And she's glad she did.

Now she is considering going on to school in Ohio to study rehabilitation. Her first love, though, is public relations, and she's got a few things in the wind along this line.

In the meantime, Sandy's been busy helping her family and neighbors around the farm. For one thing, she gave a hand this fall with the potato harvest. Working from 7 or 8 in the morning until 8 or 9 at night, she stood at a conveyor belt rubbing mud and dirt off the spuds and snatching out the bad ones as they rolled by fresh out of the field.

Between the odd jobs, she

makes time to relax and enjoy riding her horses, knitting, sewing and even swimming when her brother is on hand to lifeguard. Periodically she hops in her car—brake, clutch and everything—and buzzes over to Helena to see her friends at the Rehabilitative Services.

State Vocational Rehab helped to cover Sandy's medical and rehabilitative expenses after the accident and also sent her to college.

One of the things Sandy is most vehement about since her injury is the fitting of prosthetic devices. She explains that a great deal of her success in returning to a "normal" life has to do with proper and comfortable fit of her artificial legs.

"How well you can walk (or use whatever prosthetic device you have) has a lot to do with your attitude toward recovery and continuing on," she says.

She can't emphasize enough the importance of a good prosthetist who can fit a limb or a device correctly. Sandy's legs are

made of plastic and have all the joints living legs have. They are weighted according to her size and resemble as closely as possible her own legs.

The Montana Rehabilitation Center in Missoula is where Sandy and other amputees go for therapy and to have their limbs fitted. At the clinic are prosthetists, doctors, physical therapists, psychologists and personnel from vocational rehabilitation and workmen's compensation.

All in all, Sandy believes that when one part of your body becomes handicapped another part takes over and the people at the clinic can help make it work. In her case, Sandy's head and heart have taken over.

"If I'd died in that accident," she says, "I would have missed out on so much." Those who wouldn't have had the chance to know her would have missed out on so much too.

Recently at the annual meeting of the Montana Association for Rehabilitation, Sandy was honored for her courage and contribution to others with the President's Award, the highest compliment paid an individual by MAR. Phyllis Bagley, physical therapist at the rehab clinic in Missoula, shared the honor.

Veterans with artificial limbs or other prosthetic devices that might trigger airport electronic screening devices will be given special consideration at airports upon presentation of identification cards issued by the Veterans Administration.

Record Number Of Disabled Rehabilitated

Throughout the United States, a record 360,726 disabled Americans were rehabilitated to productive lives during fiscal year 1973, which ended in June.

In Montana a total of 1,421 persons were rehabilitated during that same period.

The national figure, up 11 per cent over FY 1972, and the Montana total, up 13 per cent, are the highest yearly totals ever reached since the State-Federal Vocational Rehabilitation Program began in 1920.

These figures were released recently by HEW Secretary Caspar W. Weinberger and Montana State Social and Rehabilitation Services Administrators Jack C. Carver, Rehabilitative Services, and Emil Honka, Visual Services.

HEW fiscal reports for the year just ended showed Texas leading the nation in the total number of rehabilitations with 29,009. This makes Texas the first state in the 53-year history of the Federal-State Vocational

Rehabilitation Program to exceed 25,000 rehabilitants in a single year, according to HEW officials.

By comparison, as ranked by HEW, Montana is nineteenth in the nation for rehabilitations per 100,000 population. Texas is fourteenth and West Virginia is first. By rehabilitations per 10,000 disabled population Montana ranked twenty-third, behind Texas which is tenth and the District of Columbia which is number one.

As the 1973 fiscal year ended, Montana had served 8,993 clients, including those rehabilitated. Open cases at that time numbered 5,920. Of the total number of rehabilitants, 234 were public assistance cases, an increase of 42 over the year before.

Nationally, the number of rehabilitants receiving public assistance payments is up 29 percent from 1972. According to Corbett Reedy, acting commissioner of SRS's Rehabilitation Services Administration, this reflects SRS's effort to reach more disabled public assistance recipients.

Seasons Greetings

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SRS News' New Editor

With the retirement of Lyle Downing who has served as editor of the SRS News for the past several years, managing editor Susan Kirkpatrick has taken over the position.

Minna Miller and Janis Luehr continue to manage the paper's circulation.

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